

October 2015 Notice of Grant Availability
FY16 Parking Lot Solar Photovoltaic Canopy with EV Chargers Grant Program

Program Description:	Grants for parking lot solar photovoltaic (PV) canopy systems with at least four (4) electric vehicle (EV) chargers.
Eligible Entities:	Businesses, state and local government agencies, and non-profits
Program Budget:	Up to \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016), subject to funding availability, to cover two different Areas of Interest (AOI):

Area of Interest I (AOI I): Businesses and non-profits

Area of Interest II (AOI II): State agencies and local governments

Type of Grant Program:	Competitive
Application Deadline:	January 12, 2016
Grant Award Amount:	MEA will provide up to \$300 per kW (DC) of canopy mounted solar PV per project, with a maximum cap of \$150,000 per project.
Application Qualifications:	To be considered for an award, a proposed project shall meet the following qualifications:

Area of Interest I (AOI I)

- Consist of at least 75 kW of solar PV panels mounted on a canopy structure over a parking lot.
- Consist of at least **four** new qualified Level II or Level III electric vehicle charging stations located in the same parking lot or on the same parking structure as the solar canopy.

Area of Interest II (AOI II)

- Consist of at least 75 kW of solar PV panels mounted on a canopy structure over a parking lot.
- Consist of at least **four** new qualified Level II or Level III electric vehicle charging stations located in the same parking lot, or on the same parking structure, as the solar canopy.
- The proposed project site shall have a minimum of 50 shade-free parking spaces.
- The proposed project site shall have a minimum load of 150,000 kWh/year attributed to an on-site State or local government agency electric meter.
- The applicant must be able to exhibit control of the proposed project site, either as proof that the parking lot is owned by the state or local

government, or that it is part of a parcel of land that has a state lease with at least twenty-five years remaining.

- In addition, the state or local government agency applying for the grant must have either a signed contract with an installing contractor or a letter of commitment signed by a senior official from the agency documenting the agency's commitment to the project.

Application Evaluation Criteria:

MEA will assess qualifying applications for award based on the following Competitive evaluation criteria:

Area of Interest I (AOI I):

- The total project cost per Watt installed in the solar PV canopy system;
- MEA funding per Watt installed in the solar PV canopy system;
- The number of qualified electric vehicle chargers to be installed;
- Inclusion of an innovative project design and/or use;
- The geographic diversity of applicants; and,
- Additional roof or ground mounted capacity installed in conjunction with a canopy system. Please note, however, that MEA will not include roof or ground mounted capacity when determining the grant amount or MEA's cost share.

Area of Interest II (AOI II):

- Estimated visibility of the proposed carport and EV chargers to the general public;
- Estimated accessibility of the proposed carport and EV chargers;
- The frequency of parking lot use;
- The amount of area available for the proposed canopy parking lot site(s);
- The number of qualified electric vehicle chargers to be installed;
- The installation of additional ground or roof mounted solar PV;
- Whether the project design and/or use is innovative; and
- Geographic diversity of grants awarded.

Qualifying applicants that show innovative design/use, install more EV chargers, reduce the cost/watt, or include an innovative element to the project will be looked upon more favorably during the award process. MEA also reserves the right to select applications that allow for a broad diversity in the project portfolio including, but not limited to, geographical diversity.

Additional Project Requirements:

For a grantee to be reimbursed under the Grant Program, the project shall:

- Install at least 75 kW of solar PV panels mounted on a canopy structure over a parking lot.
- Install at least **four** new qualified Level II or Level III electric vehicle charging stations which are located in the same parking lot or on the same parking structure as the solar canopy and that are:
 - Certified by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). A list of NRTL is available on the following website: <https://www.osha.gov/dts/otpc/nrtl/>.
 - Equipped with a Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) J1772 electrical connector for Level 2 stations, or a DC Fast Charger with a SAE Combo and/or a CHAdeMO standard connector.
- Be installed on a parking lot in Maryland which is accessible for use at least five days a week.
- Be installed and operated in compliance with the requirements of local and county codes, as well as with applicable requirements of the National Electrical Code (NEC).

- Use PV system hardware that is in compliance with all applicable performance and safety standards including: Underwriters Laboratories (UL) 1741, Standard for Static Inverters and Charge Controllers for Use in Photovoltaic Systems and UL 1703, and Standard for Safety: Flat-Plate Photovoltaic Modules and Panel.
- Be installed in a manner that is compliant with the net metering regulations outlined in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 20.50.10 et seq., as well as the requirements of the local electric utility and Authority Having Jurisdiction.
- Be installed in a manner that is compliant with the *Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Standard 929-2000, Recommended Practice for Utility Interface of Photovoltaic Systems*.

PV systems must be installed by an installation contractor who employs at least one staff member with a current North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (“NABCEP”) Installation Certification; or, if the installation contractor employs at least 50 employees, at least one staff member with a NABCEP Installation Certification for every 25 non-administrative employees, unless the installation contractor has not been registered to do business in Maryland for 12 months prior to the submission of the grant application.

Restrictions and Limitations:

- To receive grant funding for a project, the successful applicant must enter into a Grant Agreement with MEA by April 30, 2016, unless an extension is given in writing by MEA.
- A grant award will not be made for any project that starts construction prior to the effective date of the Grant Agreement with MEA.
- Prior to the start of construction, all projects selected for grant award must be reviewed by the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) or the qualified historical preservation expert on MEA’s staff to ensure that no historical property will be adversely impacted. MEA may require the Grantee to provide additional information concerning the proposed project site, in order to enable the historic preservation review. Any project identified to cause adverse impacts on historical properties shall not be eligible for grant funding under this Program.
- The following steps must be completed by each grantee by August 15, 2017:
 - Each project selected for award in Fiscal Year 2016 must be completed and in operation; and,
 - Each Grantee must submit a complete *Parking Lot Solar PV Canopy with EV Charger Grant Completion Package*. The *Parking Lot Solar PV Canopy with EV Charger Completion Package* must consist of:
 - A Completion Certificate; proof that the project is paid in full; copies of all inspection documents, permits, and licenses that are required to operate the project; project as-built drawings showing final capacity of PV array(s); a copy of the interconnection utility’s Acceptance and Final Approval to Operate; and a photograph of the installed and operational project.
- Only net metered projects will be considered for this grant program.
- MEA reserves the right to obligate all or none of the Fiscal Year 2016 *Parking Lot Solar PV Canopy with EV Charger Grant Program* budget, based on the quality and eligibility of applications submitted to MEA.
- Projects on contiguous parcels of property will be considered one project.
- A project receiving a *Parking Lot Solar PV Canopy with EV Charger Grant* is ineligible to receive a Solar Commercial Clean Energy Grant, including a second *Parking Lot Solar PV Canopy with EV Charger Grant*.

For more information or assistance, please visit www.energy.maryland.gov or contact:

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